

Royal neighborhood



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Upgrading a local network while on-line without interrupting essential services and functions of the company – that is happening seamlessly at Bouygues Construction in Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines a town in the suburbs of Paris. By the end of 2006, 3500 workstations will be made accessible with a new R&M Cat. 6 network.

In the proximity of the Château of Versailles, the landmark protection committee only permits a construction height of 25 meters. Challenger, the Bouygues Construction group's central headquarters in the Parisian suburb of Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, with its imposing ensemble of buildings, therefore, extends over a site of 30 hectares on a park-like green area.

The buildings were built in the 80's based on plans by the American architect Kevin Roche and appear modern and timeless. However, the cabling with IBM Type 2 no longer corresponds to today's state-of-the-art. Therefore, an upgrading project was started at the end of 2005. By the end of 2006, 3500 workstations will be connected with Cat. 6, that is, with two RJ45 connectors each. In total that makes 7000 links. In the future an additional 2000 workstations will be networked.



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The northeastern wing of the main building.

Weekend installation work

The formidable fact is that installations can only be performed on weekends in order not to disturb the on-line operation. In total, 65 weeks are planned for the work. On Mondays, every workstation must be fully functional again. ETDE, a Bouygues company faced up to the challenge. The planning was handled by the SNPSI consulting firm.

SNPSI selected the system provider. After having tested various Cat. 6 links measuring 30, 60 and 90 meters in length, the U/FTP solution from the R&Mfreenet program was selected. The decisive factors were not price but quality, performance – and as the most important criterion – the mechanical cable load capacity, as the cable must be pulled to right under the tabletop of the workstation.



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Challenger seen from the air.



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Bouygues provides a virtual tour through Challenger:
<http://www.bouygues.com/fr/groupe/challenger.asp>



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Flexibility: Patch panels each with 16 connections.



10 Gigabit compatibility

Considering the long-term, more advanced aspects such as 10 Gigabit compatibility and security were arguments for choosing R&M. Bouygues Construction even pays attention to the smallest details in regard to the security issue and has chosen to install Level 1 of the R&M security system: separate color coding on the outlets for data and telephone connections – details, which would have been of no interest to the royal neighbors.

R&M products used at Challenger:

- Patch panels: 16 x RJ45, Cat. 6
- U/FTP cables: 2 x 4p (Siamese cables)
- Patch cords: RJ45 Cat 6s (2 meters)
- Security system with Smarthole adapter and color coding

Bouygues evolved from a construction business to a media and telecommunications group

Bouygues started in the construction business and today is a diversified group with two large divisions: “Construction” includes civil engineering and electricity, real estate and road construction; “Télécoms-Médias” includes the French TF1 television channel and Bouygues Telecom, the cellular phone provider. In April 2006, among other things, Bouygues made headlines by taking over the government shares in ALSTOM. Bouygues is active in 80 countries and in 2005, with more than 115 000 employees, achieved sales of Euro 24.1 billion, of which 7.1 billion were outside of France.



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Color-coding eliminates mix-ups at the workstation..